



**NIFA Veterinary Medicine
Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)**

National Institute of Food and Agriculture
US Department of Agriculture
OMB Information Collection
Approval No.: 0524-0046
Expiration Date: 8/31/2013

Veterinarian Shortage Situation Nomination Form

To be completed by the chief State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or his/her designee

Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

Nomination of Veterinarian Shortage Situations for the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) Authorized Under the National Veterinary Medical Service Act (NVMSA)

Note: Please submit one separate nomination form for each position. See solicitation for number of nominations permitted for your state or insular area.

Veterinary Shortage ID Code: PA115

Location of Veterinary Shortage Area for this Nomination

Note: If this nomination is for a public practice position, please provide the location of the home office or the center of service area.

Location of Veterinary Shortage: Warren, McKean, Forest and Elk counties

(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or

Location of Position:

Intersection of State Route 948 and US Route 6, Sheffield, PA 16347

(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Type of Veterinary Practice Area/Discipline/Specialty

☐ Type I Shortage: Private Practice

Food Animal Medicine (at least 80 percent time)

Please select **one or more** specialties requested for this position:

- ☐ Beef Cattle
- ☐ Dairy Cattle
- ☐ Swine
- ☐ Poultry
- ☐ Small Ruminant
- ☐ Other _____

☒ Type II Shortage: Private Practice – Rural Area

Food Animal Medicine (at least 30 percent time)

Please select **one or more** specialties requested for this position:

- ☒ Beef Cattle
- ☒ Dairy Cattle
- ☒ Swine
- ☐ Poultry
- ☐ Small Ruminant
- ☒ Other : Mixed Animal Practice

☐ Type III Shortage: Public Practice (at least 49 percent time*)

Employer: _____ Position Title: _____

Please select **one or more** specialty/disciplinary areas.

- ☐ Food Safety
- ☐ Public Health
- ☐ Epidemiology
- ☐ Other: _____

Please describe the objectives of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation as well as being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

The objective is to increase the number of veterinarians providing food animal veterinary service to an extremely rural 3,145 square mile area which contains 20,044 food animals of different species. The area consists of four counties in northwestern Pennsylvania and contains 124 farming operations with sales of \$40,000 or more. NASS (2007) lists 514 farm owners declaring farming as their primary occupation. Over two-hundred and fifty dairy herds in Warren County had been receiving veterinary care from a two-veterinarian practice in Clymer, New York because there were no food animal veterinarians available from Pennsylvania. The Clymer practice has since discontinued service to the area and what service is available is provided by one sixty year old practitioner. With only two veterinarians in this four county area there is an obvious need for additional veterinary service. The addition of just one more food animal practitioner would decrease the number of farms with over \$40K sales from 62 to 41/veterinarian. The square miles covered per veterinarian would drop from 1,573 to 1,048 and the number of "full time" farms per vet from 257 to 171.

Please describe the activities of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation and being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

The primary role of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation would be to join a mixed-species rural practice and provide services to food animal producers in the surrounding area. A significant portion of food supply duties would involve dairy practice with lesser amounts of swine, sheep, and small ruminant duties. The companion animal component of mixed practice will be necessary to offset costs associated with travel time and distances between farm premises. In addition to providing comprehensive rural mixed species practice veterinary services the candidate filling this position will be expected to assimilate into the rural community by supporting educational and youth activities and advocate for stewardship and positive relationships between those engaged in agriculture and the expanding non-farm rural community. The candidate would be expected to use her/his position to promote best livestock care and well-being practices, animal disease control and bio-security principles, and responsible veterinary drug use in livestock. Animal health related adult and youth education, mentoring, and career guidance will also benefit the citizens of this remote portion of the Commonwealth. Technical assistance provided in animal health maintenance, public health, and food safety will have a positive influence on rural community development and regional economic growth.

199 words

Please describe any past efforts to recruit and retain a veterinarian in the shortage situation identified above (limit your response to 100 words or less).

In Warren county over 250 dairy herds were receiving veterinary service from a two-veterinarian practice in Clymer, NY. The practice tried unsuccessfully to attract a new associate in anticipation of the senior partner's retirement. Finally the decision was made to "give" 250 herds to a new graduate moving into Warren County. That individual quickly relocated to Wisconsin. The herds are currently being serviced by one of the two Pennsylvania veterinarians in the area and who is 60 years old. The Clymer practice's remaining partner, still unsuccessful in attracting an associate, is servicing the herds which the practice never relinquished.

99 words

Please describe the risk of this veterinarian position not being secured or retained. Include the risk(s) to the production of a safe and wholesome food supply and to animal, human, and environmental health not only in the community but in the region, state/insular area, nation, and/or international community (limit your response to 250 words or less).

This is a large, sparsely inhabited area with a significant food animal population. With two veterinarians each covering approximately 1,600 square miles (if the territory were divided evenly which it is not) it is apparent that providing adequate veterinary service to these widely scattered operations is virtually impossible. At the present time coverage is inadequate by the admission of the veterinarians residing there. To add a single additional veterinarian is a positive step, but will certainly not alleviate all the problems presented by animal numbers and distances that have to be travelled, especially in light of the fact that the older veterinarian in this area is approaching retirement age. Overextended veterinary practitioners providing food supply veterinary medical services have very little time to interact with clients on matters of production medicine such as nutrition, vaccination programs, bio-security, prudent animal drug use and best practices in animal care and well-being. At current levels of practitioner availability, client service is reactive and as needed rather than proactive and preventive. This takes a serious toll on farm profitability in an area where agriculture is a principal economic driver.

With such limited food supply veterinary medical services small operations with sheep, goats, swine, camelidae, and cervidae are severely underserved. Recent developments in the upper Midwest indicate a significant role of infected wildlife populations in the spread of bovine tuberculosis. Tuberculosis was diagnosed in the past year in an Ohio Dairy herd. Providing veterinary care to TB susceptible species is a critically important surveillance tool.

250 words

Please indicate whether you consider this situation/position a candidate for a "service in emergency" agreement (limit your response to 100 words or less). Please see solicitations for additional information regarding the obligation of participants who enter into the "Service in Emergency" agreement.

This is an area which has long been underserved by veterinarians due to terrain, harsh weather conditions, and limited economic growth. As a result it remains agricultural and sparsely populated. The situation did not arise as the result of some catastrophic event and the solution is a steady increase in the number of veterinarians willing to live in small rural communities and provide food animal veterinary medical service.

Authorized State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or designee:

Name: Craig E. Shultz, DVM

Title: Director, Bureau of Animal Health And
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Organization: Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

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Public reporting for OMB control number 0524-0046 is estimated to average two hours, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information, unless it displays a current valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to NIFA, OEP, 800 9th St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.

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